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THE HEROES OF THE HEART,

AND OTHER POEMS.



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THE  
HEROES OF THE HEART,  
AND OTHER  
LYRICAL POEMS.

By GEORGE HULL.

---

Read from some humbler poet,  
Whose songs gushed from his heart,  
As showers from the clouds of summer,  
Or tears from the eyelids start ;

Who, through long days of labour,  
And nights devoid of ease,  
Still heard in his soul the music  
Of wonderful melodies.

LONGFELLOW.

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# THE HEROES OF THE HEART.

O the world knows who the heroes are  
That o'er each battle-field  
March fearlessly on through the woes of war,  
And know not how to yield ;  
Whose love for the land that gave them birth,  
Breaks every baser tie,  
And turns their thoughts from the sordid earth  
To the cause for which they die.

And the world knows who the heroes are  
That glorify their land,  
When the voice of Peace has silenced War,  
And industries expand :  
They are found in the forge, the mine, the mill,  
And the nation's senate halls,  
And they give their lives for their brethren still  
When the voice of Duty calls.

These bravely scatter a light whose rays  
    Illumine every shore,  
And the nation's songs right nobly praise  
    Their names for evermore.  
'Tis well that a grateful land should show  
    How these have borne their part,  
But the heroes earth will never know  
    Are the heroes of the heart !

They live their lives to the world unknown,  
    Their woes ne'er find a tongue,  
And yet to the great last trumpet's tone  
    Their praises will be sung ;  
They've spread pure love in the place of sin  
    Wherever their feet have trod,  
And the bloodless vict'ries which they win  
    Are only known to God.

One suffers the loss of a lifelong friend,  
    Another, a priceless spouse ;  
And death, that brings one troth to an end,  
    But faster binds their vows ;  
Like a quenchless stream that onward flows,  
    Though an earthquake move its bed,  
Their love through a human desert goes  
    And a thousand hearts are fed !

One weeps for a parent passed away,  
And one for an angel-child ;  
One mourns for the hopes of youth's bright day,  
Destroyed by tempests wild :  
Wide, wide apart are the things they've lost,  
But the heroes are as one,  
For they look not back to count the cost  
Till the battle of life be done !

They mount with the wings of human love  
To the heights of love divine,  
They turn men's thoughts to the land above,  
Where angel-faces shine ;  
For, though deep sorrow has racked with pain  
Their spirits pure and bold,  
They rise to the work of life again,  
With a strength no song hath told.

To the God who gave they render back  
Each boon, with souls resigned,  
And walk henceforth in the thorny track  
Of the service of mankind.  
Their words are the wayside flowers of life,  
Their noble deeds take root,  
And bear, for the wanderer faint with strife,  
Full many a strengthening fruit.

O the world is all too blind to know  
How the heroes live and die,  
But the story of their silent woe  
Is told in the Courts on High.  
And when at the feet of the Judge we stand,  
And the light and darkness part,  
We shall see them shine at His own right hand—  
The heroes of the heart !







## OCCASIONAL POEMS.

---

### AT A BABY'S GRAVE.

The shining lilies white, love,  
Are on thy grave to tell  
The innocence and beauty  
We loved in thee so well.

Faith tells us thou art pleading  
For us before God's throne,—  
Through sorrow He is leading  
Our weak hearts to His own.

O, may our path grow clearer—  
From sin's dark shadows free—  
And heaven still draw nearer  
Through hope of meeting thee.

And if that bright hope aid us  
Eternal peace to gain,  
Sweet flower of rosy childhood,  
Thou hast not lived in vain !

---

### A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

Hark ! the bells are gaily ringing,  
While the sounds of gleeful singing  
Tell of Him who came at Christmas  
Many centuries ago ;  
Who was cradled in a manger,  
And of Herod lived in danger ;  
Who redeemed the world and taught us  
How to conquer sin and woe.

Friends, long parted, are united,  
And fond hopes that have been blighted  
Rise once more, by love rekindled,  
Round the homely cheerful fire ;  
And the rosy children's voices  
Tell how each young heart rejoices  
As the mirthful Christmas Carol  
Soundeth higher still and higher.

Brother clasps the hand of brother,  
Daughter lends new charms to mother,  
While the father looks with pride  
    Upon the dear long-absent son ;  
Many a tender, holy feeling  
Ssprings in every heart, revealing  
Gleams of what the Child of Nazareth  
    For a sinful world hath done.

May bright Christmas still continue  
By such joys as these to win you—  
Gentle souls!—from every sorrow  
    As each year it comes again ;  
And to you may grace be given  
By the Lord of earth and heaven,  
To fulfil with joy the tidings—  
    “ Peace on earth, goodwill to men.”

---

## THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW.

He rests upon his bed,  
Low lies his snowy head—  
The poor Old Year ! he soon must pass away,  
Yet not without a tear,  
He leaves this earthly sphere,  
For we have sported with him many a day.

We loved him when he came,  
When "New Year" was his name,  
And he was full of youth's exulting pride ;  
And now that he is old,  
Our love has grown tenfold,  
And anxiously we watch by his bedside.

For he to us has been  
A kindly year, I ween ;  
And though he could not always make us smile,  
As time wore on he brought  
Fresh joys—till then unsought—  
Our hearts away from sorrow to beguile.

But see! the midnight hour  
Hath shorn him of his power,—  
One long and deep-drawn sigh, and he is gone !  
While through the open door,  
Just when the strife is o'er,  
Old Time brings in a smiling little one.

This is the New-born Year ;  
And though we shed a tear,  
And think how soon the good Old Year has flown,  
We'll through the night prolong,  
Our sounds of hopeful song,  
And gladly make the fair New Year our own.

Then welcome, New Year bright !  
May every heart be light  
That hails thy coming ere the merry morn ;  
May each one—young and old—  
Taste gladness yet untold,  
And bless the happy day when thou wert born.

---

THE SMILE OF A FRIEND.

When cares or afflictions our short lives have clouded,  
And sighing we almost wish life at an end ;  
When round us, unnumbered, dark sorrows are crowded,—  
How sweet to the heart comes the smile of a friend.

It breaks through the clouds that are hovering o'er us,  
Like sunshine it drives every sorrow away ;  
Dispels the dark visions that floated before us,  
And bids us look forth to a happier day.

'Tis sunshine indeed, and though few words be spoken,  
It speaks for itself and its story is true ;  
Of brotherly love 'tis a beautiful token,  
And many a good thought does its shining renew.

It brings back the days of our youth to our vision,  
And mem'ries of schooldays steal round us once more ;  
It bids us look up to that Country elysian  
Where true friends will meet when life's journey is o'er.

Come, lads! we'll be blithesome and drive away sorrow,  
When friends are despondent we'll give them a hand,  
And many a kind word will repay us to-morrow  
For bringing them safe, in love's vessel, to land.

How light beat the hearts that can thank Him who made  
us—  
Who bade lovely friendship our footsteps attend—  
And, when foes of peace and contentment invade us,  
Can conquer them all, through the smile of a friend !

---

TO A LARK.

What ails my little warbler ?  
He singeth not to-day,  
From his cage beside the window here,  
His carol sweet and gay.

He is longing for the freedom  
He used to know and love,  
When his home was in the woodlands wide,  
His cage the sky above.

Ah, well ! ' my tiny minstrel,  
I sympathise with thee ;  
I, too, am weak and weary now,  
And long so to be free.

Far from the giant buildings  
That half shut out the sun,  
Where men like slaves must labour on,  
And toil is never done.

I long to greet the meadows  
Wherein a child I played ;  
To quench my thirst at the silver well,  
To wander through the glade ;

To hear the bells at evening  
Ring out so sweet and low ;  
To sit beside the stream, and hear  
The music of its flow.

But ah ! my little singer,  
My hopes, like thine, are vain ;  
I toil for men with book and pen,  
Bound down by labour's chain.

I see no sight to cheer me  
In dusty rooms like these ;  
I have no solace but to hear  
Thy tinkling melodies.

Then deem me not too selfish  
If I feed and keep thee here—  
The only thing that bids me cling  
To a sweeter atmosphere !

---

DUTY AND DELIGHT

What tender sweetness fills thy joyful strain,  
High-soaring lark that gladdeneth all the field ;  
Whose care it is to guard thy mate, and shield  
Thy first-born brood from hunger and from pain.



Thine eyes enraptured show a heart full fain,  
My gallant boy, when eager budding youth  
Brings thy first journey through the realms of truth,  
To view God's works, by learning's light made plain.

Thou hidest thy thrice-happy looks in vain,  
Shy, new-made bride, when first thy household cares  
Are mingled with thy gentle hopes and prayers  
For him whose kisses on thy rose-lips rain.

O ! joy fills all things when the wondrous light  
Of youth is thrown upon life's rugged ways ;  
And evermore those are the dearest days  
When Love and Youth crown Duty with Delight.

---

## THE FOUNTAIN OF LOVE.

"There is but one true love," the poet saith,  
"All other loves are vain,  
And if that first true love go down to death,  
It comes not back again.

"All other loves are but the shadows frail  
Of this most glorious one,—  
Mere shadows, which, compared, seem poor and pale,—  
Like moonbeams to the sun."

But, O my poet ! I would live my life  
Of sorrow o'er again  
To teach one lesson of its lingering strife  
To weary-hearted men.

I too have felt the first love's early glow,  
Its peace so true and mild,  
Aye, even in the golden long-ago,  
When I was but a child.

One face for ever lighted all my dreams ;  
One heart to mine beat true ;  
One smile to-day before my vision beams,  
As then 'twas wont to do.

One gentle hand, for ever in my own,  
Those dreams still bring to me ;  
And when I wake, to find myself alone,  
My tears fall fast and free.

One dark brown tress amid my treasures now  
Like some saint's relic lies,—  
It used to rest upon that placid brow  
Whence beamed my lady's eyes.

One woman thus I loved in youth,—and yet  
Am loyal to another,—  
For her on whom my earliest love was set—  
Thank heaven!—was my mother.

From her sweet self my earliest vision springs  
Of woman pure and high,  
To her first love my spirit ever clings,  
Let grief, or joy, be nigh.

Stranger or friend—whichever thou may'st be,  
Whose eyes glance o'er my page—  
Accept this one consoling truth from me,  
'Twill live in youth or age.

Our God "fulfils Himself in many ways,"  
And though He take, in pain,  
From thy poor soul the joys of early days,  
He can give back again.

He bids thee only keep thy own heart true  
To one divine ideal,  
And then the purest love thy childhood knew  
Shall make all others real !

---

### SEA AND RIVER.

Man ! thou art like the ever-restless sea,  
Too often madly striving to be free  
From those strong bounds which God hath set apart  
To guide and guard thy wild and wandering heart.  
A sweet, brief calm thou knowest when a boy,  
The world before thee opens, full of joy ;  
But, all too soon, thy heart, with passion warm,  
Nears manhood's noon, and feels the inward storm  
Which either gives thee energy at length,  
And makes thy soul majestic in its strength,  
Or dashes thee about, until at last  
Thy hopes, affections, virtues—all, are cast  
Upon the hard, cold rocks that round thee lie,  
In shame or dark obscurity to die !

It is not so with woman—she doth seem  
To move along more like a quiet stream.  
She springeth, pure and beauteous, from God's hand,

And passeth, in her childhood, through the land,  
For ever making music as she goes,  
And shedding light upon the darkest woes.  
The young who strive, the old who sigh and think  
O'er bygone days, love from her soul to drink  
The clear refreshment innocence supplies,  
And, having drunk, to nobler actions rise.  
But O, when childhood's journey is passed o'er,  
How beautiful she seems, as by the shore  
Of Youth she passes; who hath tongue to tell  
The power, O man!—that holds thee with its spell,  
The glory that her purity reveals  
When, like the crystal stream, her love first steals  
Into the storm-tossed ocean of thy soul—  
The billows of thy sorrow cease to roll,  
The storm abates, the world's loud thunders cease,  
And all its bitter strife is lost in wondrous peace.

---

### THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR.

When the busy day had fled,  
By my lonely hearth I read  
How a land of might and glory,  
Famous in the world's great story,  
Once endured, 'mid crime and tears,  
War's grim rule for seven years.

How through every darkened day  
He maintained relentless sway ;  
How the brave, the strong, the cherished,  
At his bidding fought and perished ;  
Father, husband, lover, son,  
Swept away with spear and gun !

How the night would often seem  
Like some wild and ghastly dream,  
When the thought of dead and dying,  
In the mellow moonlight lying,  
Filled with anguish dark and deep,  
Hearts that longed for rest and sleep !

While I wondered more and more  
How the weary nations bore  
That long reign of grief and terror,  
Born of earthly crime and error,  
Glimpses of another fight  
Came from out the fitful light.

From those glimpses grew the thought  
Of the good and evil wrought  
By the mighty war which rages,  
All unknown to history's pages,  
When the foes of heavenly truth  
Storm the fiery soul of youth.

Seven years of youthful strife  
Shape the course of human life ;  
What men are in this endeavour  
They will oft remain for ever,—  
Base or noble, chained or free !  
All, great Youth, depends on thee !

Anxious angels watch this war,  
From celestial thrones afar,—  
See the good and ill contending  
For the mastery never ending ;  
See the world's great powers allied  
With the dark and evil side.

Men are blind, but angels know  
What a dreadful weight of woe  
Waits for those who strive to follow  
Earthly phantoms vain and hollow,  
And upon youth's battlefield,  
For their sake like cowards yield !

Angel-songs alone can say  
All the joys that light his way  
Who, with soul by grace made glorious,  
From each fight comes forth victorious,  
And because he perseveres,  
Wins the war of seven years !

Life and death to him shall be  
Truly noble, truly free ;  
Duty, Love, and Peace shall guide him,  
Through the years, and kneel beside him,  
When life's slowly-sinking sun  
Tells him all his toil is done !

---

### THE ANGEL-MOTHER.

When life is dark, and all seems drear,  
And none are near to comfort me,  
A voice from Heaven I seem to hear,  
A vision bright I see.

Descending from the "Better Land,"  
I see my mother's radiant form ;  
I kiss her cheek, I hold her hand,  
And silenced is the storm.

No matter what my sorrows are,  
No matter though temptation strong  
Be with my better self at war,  
I always hear her song.



It sounds above the worldly din,  
And charms my heart with holy love ;  
It turns my thoughts from care and sin,  
And bids me look above.

It bids me work with ardour great,  
Submissive to the Master's will ;  
Accept with joy my earthly state,  
And well my task fulfil.

It shows me how my humble lyre,  
If used fair Virtue's worth to own,  
May one day sound amongst the choir  
Beside our Saviour's throne.

And, when the clouds disperse once more,  
She leaves me, with her angel-smile,  
My heart made glad, my sorrows o'er,—  
And bids me wait awhile.

Then cheerfully I go my way ;  
And singing pass I through the throng,  
And thank my God, and beg one day  
In Heaven to hear her song.

---

## AT THE GOLDEN GATE.

I am sinking, sister, sinking—  
Dying ere my youth is fled ;  
I can see your form but dimly,  
As you kneel beside my bed.

For mine eyes are glassy growing,  
And my feet are stiff and cold,  
While my frame is racked with fever,  
And a pain words leave untold.

When the winds of Spring were sighing,  
I was light of heart and strong ;  
Now the Summer leaves lie dying,  
And I hear the angels' song.

When the primrose pale was springing,  
All my thoughts were of this earth,—  
Now, each shortening day is bringing  
Dreams of my eternal birth.

I have sighed for love and pleasure,  
In the days now passed away ;  
But the joys of earth seem hollow,  
As I think of them to-day.

And methinks, if I were given  
Strength to live my life again,  
I would train myself for heaven,  
Far from all the haunts of men !

Yet, my sister, let God guide you ;  
For I may not rashly deem  
That the world of love and labour  
Is a false and fruitless dream.

In the home, as in the cloister,  
Burns the fire of love divine,  
Both count saints among their children,  
Both are part of His design.

And the life of calm seclusion,  
That is filled with grace for one,  
May be aimless to another,  
With the world's keen race to run.

I will only pray, my sister,  
That when you are left behind,  
You may win your crown of glory,  
In the life for you designed.

Walking onward meekly, purely,  
Like a pilgrim through the land ;  
Gathering flowers of holy fragrance,  
To be placed in God's own hand !

I am weary now,—so weary,  
I can speak but little more ;  
Pray, O pray ! for me, dear sister,  
Till this last long strife is o'er !

---

Raise my aching head a little,—  
Let me gaze with these poor eyes  
On the white-robed band descending  
From yon strangely shining skies.

See them now ! they come to meet me !  
Hear the wondrous music swell,  
Kiss me once again, sweet sister ;  
Kiss me once, and now farewell !

..

Life is sweet, but death is sweeter,  
When it leads to life divine—  
Angels, pray for me and guard me ;  
King of Angels, make me Thine !

---

---

THE WHITE-HAIRED SINGER.

(Written for the first anniversary of Longfellow's death.)

A year ago to-day  
A Poet passed away—  
A Poet who was master of his lyre ;  
And though that lyre be still  
Its strains remain to thrill  
And lift our hearts and aspirations higher.

How gloriously he sang,  
And how the nations rang,  
For many a year with echoes of his song  
Remember we full well  
And own the magic spell  
Which charms and elevates the toiling throng.

But now, alas ! no more  
From brave Columbia's shore  
Comes, borne o'er the Atlantic wide his lay ;  
The white-haired singer sleeps,  
And still our England weeps  
With her sad daughter o'er the watery way.

Yet while our eyes grow dim  
Whene'er we think of him,  
We gather consolation, for we know  
His name will always stand  
Revered in many a land—  
His priceless songs will lessen human woe.

True poets never die,  
But dwell with God on high—  
Beneath His smile whose lessons they have taught;  
And looking down on earth  
At every morning's birth,  
See many a good deed through their teaching wrought.

I speak of those whose song  
Has never championed wrong,  
Or marred the holy melody of love;  
And surely *he* was one,  
For pure and bright he shone  
With virtue's radiance mirrored from above.

If more but knew the power  
With which in silent hour  
His tender strains can solace weary hearts,  
The world would nobler grow,  
And every heart would know  
The peace which gentle sympathy imparts.

Already thousands know  
His worth ; and time will show  
That through the days to come Longfellow's name,  
Enshrined with grateful care,  
Will shine—a jewel rare !—  
Upon the kingly coronal of Fame.

Full many a poet's lays  
Will swell with joyous praise  
Of God who gave this minstrel to our age ;  
And nations, yet unborn,  
Shall see his name adorn  
With hallowed glory, history's pregnant page.

Long will that name be blest,  
While sweetly he doth rest,  
From earth and all its sorrows far away ;  
And men of every clime,  
Touched by his lays sublime,  
Bless him who died a year ago to-day !

---

### THE KING'S VISIT.

(Founded on the story of Charles V. of Germany and I. of Spain. The word "King" is here used instead of "Emperor," as being more simple and musical.

In Seville the old and splendid,  
Mirth and music reign supreme,  
In a radiant glory blended,  
Fair as some enchanted dream.

Joyous hearts find sweetest voices  
On this gladsome day to sing,  
Every loyal soul rejoices  
At the coming of the King.

See, he comes! men bend before him,  
Each one with most humble mien;  
Till emotions strange come o'er him  
As those lowly heads are seen.

For he thinks how vain and fleeting  
Are their homage and his fame;  
And he hears not half their greeting,  
As they shout and sing his name.

He is thinking of his childhood,  
Ere he trod his earthly throne;  
Of that chapel in the wildwood,  
Where he used to kneel alone.

There, he knows, a King far greater  
Reigns in silence day by day;  
There, he knows, the world's Creator  
Blesses all who come to pray.



There, he knows, His voice is pleading  
Evermore, men's hearts to win ;  
Yet they pass Him all unheeding,  
Sell His choicest gifts for sin.

There, the birds alone are singing,  
There, the banners are the trees,  
While one little bell is ringing  
Faintly in the morning breeze.

Hail your king, ye joyous people !  
Soon your merry day is o'er ;  
Clash, ye bells ! in tower and steeple—  
Ye shall hail the King no more !

He hath trod your streets the last time,  
He hath passed beyond your town ;  
Wearied out with worldly pastime,  
He hath laid aside his crown.

In that chapel in the wildwood  
He is kneeling as of yore,  
While the peace that crowned his childhood  
Fills his heart and brain once more.

He hath joined the cloistered brothers,  
He will live for God alone,—  
Toil and pray amongst the others,  
Unregarded and unknown !

Greater kings have lived and flourished,  
Greater rulers held their sway ;  
Yet their majesty hath perished,  
They were children of a day.

But to this wise monarch's story  
Still my fancy closely clings,  
For he gave up earth's best glory  
To the King above all kings !

---

AN ANGEL'S NAME.

You turned away your radiant face,  
Then looked at me with blame,  
When I to your angelic grace  
Once gave an angel-name.

You thought of those who reign above,  
And said it was not meet  
That I should call my earthly Love  
"My Guardian-Angel sweet."

Ah, well! be sure I never meant  
To slight what God had given,—  
I ne'er forgot the Spirit sent  
To guide my soul to Heaven.

But, looking back upon my life,  
You ever seemed to be  
A second Angel, 'mid the strife  
'Twixt care and sin and me.

I cannot think of boyhood's days  
Without recalling too  
The gentle smile that met my gaze  
When first you crossed my view.

That smile of yours ne'er lost its power,—  
It followed me afar,  
And shone through many a sunless hour  
As shone the eastern star.

'Tis true I followed not its light ;  
    'Tis true I did not tread  
At first within the pathway bright  
    To which that smile had led.

I gazed on other faces, Love,  
    And all but yours grew cold ;  
I journeyed through fresh places, Love,  
    But none were like the old.

Through all my wanderings, evermore,  
    Your early smile came back  
To guide me o'er a treacherous shore  
    To manhood's firmer track.

As Guardian-Angels guide mankind  
    Across this Vale of Tears,  
You guided me—a wanderer blind—  
    Through youth's uncertain years.

And since I gained your hand and heart,  
    My life is made for me  
A Land, from all the world apart,  
    Beside a sunlit sea :

A glorious land, where all is blest,  
Where love and virtue meet ;  
Where cheerful toil and peaceful rest  
Each blissful day complete.

Then wonder not that I should steal  
A heavenly word to tell  
The peace which you have made me feel,—  
The praise you earn so well.

And cloud no more your radiant face  
To look at me with blame,—  
For you who fill an angel's place  
Deserve an angel's name !

---

### LOVE AND ANGER.

O, breathe no more that angry word !  
For grief will reign if such be said :  
But know, when Anger's voice is heard  
The Spirit of true Love hath fled.

I know he may return again,  
With sweeter smile and greater power ;  
Yet he may fail to conquer pain  
Created in a careless hour.

When years have passed, if Death lay low  
The gentle one to thee so dear,  
Thy own hot words will swell thy woe,  
While lonely weeping o'er her bier.

Or, if God call thee first away,  
She will not bless thy memory more  
If words like those thy lips would say  
Have often pierced her leal heart's core.

Our life hath more of night than day,  
Its days have more of shower than sun ;  
But kindness is a lamp whose ray  
Will beam when days of joy are done.

Then let thy kindness brighter shine  
To-day, when skies are dark above ;  
And light with peace the face benign  
Of her who lives for home and love.

Thus, trampling down all selfish pride,  
A noble victory thou wilt win,  
Gladden the dear one by thy side,  
And hear a voice say from within,—

“ Well done ! Thy kind and manly word  
True blessings on thy life hath shed ;  
For know, when Love’s sweet voice is heard,  
God’s angel, Peace, thy way doth tread ! ”

---

### THE FRIEND UNSEEN.

I’ve scanned the page of many a bard  
Whose strain melodious rings,  
From Shakespeare to the lowliest one  
That in our own day sings.  
I love their lore ; yet love far more  
Than all the rest, I ween,  
The prince of great Columbia’s choir—  
My wondrous friend unseen.

He was the first whose note I heard  
In boyhood’s early days,  
When earth seemed still a paradise  
To my unclouded gaze.  
I traced with beating heart each step  
Of sad Evangeline,  
Then learned to prize and longed to meet  
The friend I’d never seen.

The "Voices of the Night" to me  
Were music wondrous sweet,  
I heard the "Village Blacksmith" song  
Ring down the quiet street.  
I watched the royal slave expire  
The "ungathered rice" beside,  
And saw the mild-eyed angel, sent  
To tame King Robert's pride.

To me the "wild sweet" belfry's chimes  
Brought dreams of days of old,  
For I had heard the story of  
The Flemish warriors told.  
I saw the flower of Flanders meet  
On Courtrai's honoured field,—  
A nation's pride with Right allied—  
To bid the Frenchmen yield.

And not alone on olden days  
My poet shed his light,—  
A hundred songs of homely ways  
Flit through my mind to-night.  
"The Seaside and the Fireside" blend  
Their charms my brain within,  
And youth's first music lingers yet,  
About the "Wayside Inn."



The love of little children, too,  
Made holy his old age ;  
The strength of " white simplicity "  
Shone ever on his page.  
In cultured use of simple words  
He never seemed to fail,  
Yet brought some new and subtile charm  
To every song or tale.

But most of all I love my friend  
For sorrow bravely borne,—  
Because he laboured to the end,  
When heart from heart was torn.  
" Footsteps of Angels " strengthen me,  
As oft they strengthened him  
Who heard them, as I hear them now,  
Amid the twilight dim.

O ! wondrous is the power of song—  
Like faith itself it seems ;  
He sang to me across the sea,  
And mirrored all my dreams ;  
By sympathy of soul I dare  
To claim him as my friend  
Whose comradeship I shall not share  
Until the journey's end.

“Look not,” my soul, “upon the past,  
It comes not back again ;”  
“Wisely improve the present ;” toil  
To raise thy fellow men.  
“Go forth to meet the future with  
A fearless manly heart ;”  
And let thy “footprints on the sands ”  
Attest thy noble part.

These, and a hundred lessons more,  
Flowed from the singer’s lips,  
Who more than brother seemed to me  
’Mid sorrow’s first eclipse.  
The noblest, tenderest, bravest bard  
That in our age hath been,  
Was he who thrilled my youthful soul—  
My constant friend unseen !

---

PEACE.

Peace walked with me along the ways  
Of my beloved, early years ;  
Peace mingled sweetness with my tears,  
And filled with beauty all my days.

Time passed with swiftmess, and ere long  
The battle of my life began ;  
I felt myself at length a man,  
And took my place among the throng.

I took my place with youthful pride ;  
I fought an earthly fight, and won ;  
But, when the deadly fray was done,  
Peace stood no longer by my side.

I sought her long, but all in vain,  
The years went by ; she came no more ;  
While I grew rich in golden store,  
But felt within a ceaseless pain :

For well I knew that I had fought  
For nothing but the world's renown ;  
And, in my haste to win its crown,  
A thousand evil deeds had wrought.

I left the City's strife and din,  
And to my childhood's home returned—  
That home for which I had not yearned  
Through all my selfish years of sin.

I knelt before the altar-throne  
Where in my nobler days I prayed ;  
The birds around sweet music made,  
While I wept on for hours alone.

I rose at length—a new life planned  
Within my brain—when by my side  
Lo ! Peace stood smiling, glorified,  
And led me gently by the hand.

And now she walks with me the ways  
Of glorious manhood's ripened years.  
And mingles sweetness with my tears,  
And fills with beauty all my days.

---

### THE LILY AND THE ROSE.

When on earth is born a little maiden,  
Comes an unseen angel from the skies ;  
With sweet blessings of Our Father laden,  
Quick to greet the little one she flies.

Flowers, full of fragrance and of beauty,  
Gives she to that little helpless child :  
Guiding stars, to show the path of duty,  
When the world is stormy, dark, and wild.

And the fairest of those flowers of Heaven  
Are the lily and the blushing rose ;  
For a purpose holy they are given,  
—And their value well the angel knows.

Shines the lily with a saint-like whiteness,  
Pure and spotless comes it from God's hand ;  
And the rose doth glow with ruddy brightness :—  
Empress of the flowers of our land.

Purity, of virtues is most glorious,  
And the lily is its emblem dear ;  
It will lead a maiden on, victorious,  
Through life's battle drying every tear.

While the rose of beauty, brightly beaming  
On her face, will glorify her smile ;—  
Soothing many a heart with sadness teeming,  
Making pain or sorrow sleep awhile.

Maiden ! let those flowers be united,  
Ever, through thy life, in joy or pain ;  
Treasure them, that they may ne'er be blighted,  
Never sell them for a worldly gain.

By thy heavenly purity and beauty,  
Guide thou others, with thyself, along,  
Through the ways of goodness and of duty,  
To the land of never-ending song !

---

### THE POET'S REWARD.

The worldling said unto the bard,  
" Why waste thy precious time in song,  
To please the ever-changing throng ?—  
For they will give thee no reward."

The bard was silent for a while ;  
Then, with a touch of magic fire,  
His fingers swept the tuneful lyre,  
And he made answer, with a smile.

"I ask not their rewards," he said,  
    "The Master deigned to send me here  
    To teach, and by my songs to cheer  
The priceless souls for whom He bled.

"I am the servaht—He the Lord,—  
    And I must do my duty well  
    Whilst in this fleeting world I dwell,  
And trust in Him for my reward.

"I know 'tis hard to sing at times  
    When faithless children of this earth  
    Deny the beauty, truth, or worth  
Of poets' noblest, stateliest rhymes.

"But what of that? All are not so;  
    And over some—thank God, not few!—  
    A song falls like the morning dew  
And cools the fever of their woe.

"And so I do not sing in vain,  
    But scatter songs upon my way,  
    And find glad listeners every day,  
Amid life's sunshine, storm, or rain.

“ These songs, perchance, may bring sweet tears  
And memories of days of yore  
To some whose time of joy seemed o’er,  
And give them peace unknown for years.

“ Or some poor wanderer, steeped in sin,  
Responding to my simple lay  
May feel his heart inclined to pray,  
And, cleansed, a nobler life begin.

“ To help my brethren in the strife  
’Gainst sin, or sorrow, dark and drear,  
To teach them none but God to fear,  
Shall be the objects of my life.

“ And for refreshment I will drink  
From streams of song which bards of old  
Have poured from minds sublime and bold ;  
And I will be content to think

“ That God, who unto me hath given  
The depth of grief, the height of mirth,—  
If I but do His work on earth,  
Will give me my reward in Heaven ! ”

---



## PERSEVERE.

Brother ! choose the path of duty,  
Keep that path, and have no fear ;  
Life will show thee all its beauty  
If thou wilt but persevere.

When dark clouds are hanging o'er thee,  
And thy way seems dim and drear,  
Think of Heaven that lies before thee,—  
Strive for that, and persevere.

Grieve not, though thy lot be lowly,  
And thou toilest year by year,—  
Has not God made labour holy ?—  
Do thy best, and persevere.

Be thou Statesman, Artist, Poet,  
Hold thy own vocation dear ;  
Thou hast genius ! Toil will show it ;  
Help thy brethren, persevere !

God has given all His creatures  
Duties, loving, true and clear ;  
Every state has noble features,  
Choose thy own, and persevere !

Make each day in life a witness,  
Spreading tidings far and near  
Of the glory and the fitness  
Of the watchword—Persevere !

---

### THE REBOUND.

Against a stately forest tree,  
That long through storms had held its own,  
When but a child, I flung a stone,  
Which, bounding backwards, wounded me.

The tree bore not the slightest trace  
Of injury upon its bark,  
Yet I for months retained the mark  
Left by that wound upon my face.

Long afterwards, a foolish dream  
Had half destroyed my sense of right,  
And, dazzled by its visions bright,  
I rowed against Fate's mighty stream !

I had a friend most fond and true,  
Who gently showed me where I erred ;  
But, all by pride and anger stirred,  
At him a word of scorn I threw.

He stood serenely, like the oak,  
Surrounded by the golden light  
Of conscious truth and sterling right,  
And braved, unscathed, the maddening stroke.

But I—though years have passed away,  
And Friendship binds our souls again,—  
Still feel the self-inflicted pain  
Shoot through my weary heart to-day.

And often, when I hear him speak  
Words, noble, manly, sweet and wise,  
With goodness beaming from his eyes,  
There comes a blush upon my cheek :

While Conscience crushes all my frame,  
As when that cruel word of scorn  
Drove through my heart the double thorn  
Of keen remorse and lowering shame !

---

## THE BALLAD OF LILY-MARY.

God sent me Lily-Mary  
In Youth's most wayward day,  
To comfort me and guide me  
Along the narrow way.  
Her voice was thrilling music,  
Her love was half divine,  
And in her eyes so tender  
The light of truth did shine.

She came to help and cheer me  
When all was dark around,  
And in the home she made me  
My youth's first peace was found.  
We toiled and loved together  
For two unclouded years,  
And then my woeful heart returned  
To loneliness and tears.

An angel-child had wandered  
To earth from realms above,—  
Had come to crown with glory  
Our new and wondrous love.  
Alas! for Lily-Mary!  
Her babe scarce saw the day  
Before the gentle mother  
By death was borne away.

Upon the mount of gladness  
In Summer's golden noon,  
The sudden storm had found me,  
And raged around me soon.  
With memory's flashing lightning  
Came thunders of despair,  
And with them both I battled  
In deep'ning darkness there.

I saw a "silvery lining"  
Within the clouds so black—  
The baby-smile so radiant,  
To earth had called me back :  
The mother's eyes looked on me  
From that sweet infant face ;  
I still had one to live for,  
Through life's uncertain race.

O fleeting, vain illusion !  
O hope that soon betrayed !  
'Twas only for a moment  
The angry storm delayed :  
The little face grew thinner,  
And shorter came the breath,  
Until my child—my only hope—  
Was yielded up to death.

Then madness hovered near me,  
Unseen by those around ;  
Far deeper ran my sorrow-stream  
Because it gave no sound.  
I prayed that Death the reaper  
Would strike the fatal blow,  
And let me share with those I loved  
The grave so sweet and low.

My thoughts were strange and wayward ;  
But still the fight I won,  
For on one prayer I stumbled,—  
“God’s holy will be done.”  
It rang, through night and morning,  
In my bewildered ears,  
Until it melted all my heart  
In sweet resignèd tears.

It purified my sorrow,  
It made my pathway plain,  
For God and for my neighbour  
I rose to life again.  
I cast mere earthly schemes away,—  
A nobler life begun, --  
When from my heart I learnt to say,  
“God’s holy will be done ! ”

I begged at first to labour  
In His own vineyard sweet,  
Where my dead mother once had longed  
To plant my childish feet.  
But slowly came the answer  
To my imperfect prayer,—  
“Not thine to choose the pathway,  
Thy steps would falter there.”

“Yet shalt thou teach what Sorrow  
Hath now revealed to thee,  
Go back into the sinful world,  
And strike thy harp for Me.  
By song the Angels praise Me,  
By song may souls be won,—  
Go forth, and let thy message be—  
‘God’s holy will be done.’”

---

The chosen ones of Heaven  
Have heavenly work to do,  
And my two earth-born-angels  
To their own task were true :  
And when my heart was breaking  
With wild, unspoken pain,  
Their memory forced my broken voice  
To music once again.

And now sweet Lily-Mary  
Looks down and pleads for me,  
The babe that never spoke my name  
Through God my heart can see.—  
I serve no more the fleeting world,  
His will and theirs are one,  
They know I only live to sing  
God's holy-will be done !







## SONGS.

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### THE EVENING STAR.

When daylight hath faded,  
And toiling is done ;  
While stars from the darkness  
Peep out one by one ;  
As homewards I journey,  
I look from afar  
For the clear-shining light  
Of my own Evening Star.

'Tis not the bright planet  
That beams from above,—  
I look not so high for  
The star that I love,—  
'Tis the lamp at the window  
My Mary sits by,  
And it gains a new light  
From each bonny blue eye.

Yes! the lamp at the window  
Is dearest by far ;  
For it shines with love's brightness—  
My own Evening Star !

I know that around it  
Are waiting for me  
The three fairest children  
I ever shall see ;  
By the side of their mother,—  
The dearest and best  
That ever fond lover  
In boyhood caressed !

Then here's to the pleasures  
Of Love's chosen home,  
And a fig for Bohemians  
Who aimlessly roam !  
My joys are far nobler  
Than ever they'll know,  
And my star will shine on  
Through the dark nights of woe !

Yes! the lamp at the window  
Is dearest by far ;  
For it shines with love's brightness—  
My own Evening Star !

---

THE MUSIC ON THE WIND.

Last night my heart was filled with woe,  
My thoughts were all of thee,  
Yet wayward Memory would not show  
Thy beauteous form to me.

I strove in vain to call again  
Thine image to my mind,  
When lo! a strain of music sweet  
Came wafted on the wind.

The memories of our early days  
Came back—a glorious throng;  
I saw once more upon thy face  
The love too deep for song.

I saw within thine eyes the light  
That shone for me alone;  
I lived again that radiant day  
Which made thee all my own.

The golden years together spent  
In one unclouded home,  
That music to my fancy lent  
Beneath the starry dome.

And when at last the gladsome strain  
Ceased ringing in my ears,  
I turned and wandered on again,  
With eyes o'erbrimmed with tears.

My heart was beating wild and fast ;  
My soul was strangely stirred ;  
Yet as I walked I thankful grew  
For all that I had heard.

For if earth's music holds the power  
To bring thy face in view,  
And give me back in one short hour  
The years of joy we knew,—

I feel—I know—that when my feet  
Rest—all these wanderings o'er,  
A strain of heavenly music sweet  
Will wed our souls once more !

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THE TOILER'S WIFE.

My wife looks bright—her heart is light,  
When Fortune's sun is shining ;  
And in her face I see the grace  
That loves not dull repining.  
She gaily sings, and daily brings  
To me a world of gladness ;  
And drives away, with laughter gay,  
The ghosts of care and sadness.

And so I live, and so I love ;  
And though the rich may shine,  
Not one, I know, of them can show  
A wife so *blithe* as mine.

But in the hour when life's clouds lower  
Shines forth her virtue's beauty ;  
For trials serve her soul to nerve,  
And mark the way of duty.  
With conscience clear, she conquers fear,  
And yields to no blind sorrow ;  
But oft will say, " Though dark to-day,  
The sun will shine to-morrow."

And so I live, and so I love ;  
And though the rich may shine,  
Not one, I know, of them can show  
A wife so *true* as mine !

---

## WHY SHOULD I FEAR ?

Why should I fear to bear my part,—  
    Why o'er this world repine,  
When evermore my weary heart  
    Can trust, my Love, in thine ?  
Why should I let the world's neglect  
    Bring wrinkles to my brow  
When thy approving smiles have decked  
    My pathway even now ?

Why should I fear to mount the hills  
    Of Duty or of Fame ?  
A nobler zeal my bosom fills,  
    And puts my fears to shame.  
Shall I not trust the God who gave  
    Thy priceless love to me,  
When near me rolled Despair's dark wave,  
    Upon life's lonely sea ?

For though I did not ask my God  
    To crown my life once more,—  
And though alone I would have trod  
    This earth till life was o'er,—  
True love—that only God sends twice—  
    Came back again to me,  
As when the sun breaks through the ice,  
    And sets the brooklet free.

Within thy stainless heart He placed  
The gifts revered of yore,  
Upon thy countenance He traced  
Love's winning smile once more.  
I heard the thrilling tones of old  
Ring in thy gentle voice,  
It was as if an angel told  
My sad soul to rejoice.

I see that light within thine eyes  
I never hoped to see,  
For He who lights yon golden skies  
Brings back the past to me :  
And if He work such wonders now,  
While grace in me is dim,  
Shall I not kiss thy hopeful brow,  
And learn to trust in Him ?

Yes ! Why should I not bear my part ?  
Why o'er this world repine,  
When evermore my weary heart  
Can trust, my Love, in thine ?  
Why should I let the world's neglect  
Bring wrinkles to my brow,  
When thy approving smiles have decked  
My pathway even now ?





## SONNETS AND SONNET-STANZAS.

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### FAITH.

There came an Angel-King to dwell with men ;  
He gained allegiance through celestial things,  
And 'neath the shadow of his mighty wings  
The peace of Eden drew near earth again.  
Souls, Godlike, traversed every mount and glen  
Of changing life, with hearts that knew not fear,  
Their hopes were great, their aims were high and clear,  
Their lowliest lives had noble features then.

But O ! if life waxed strong beneath his sway,  
Far stronger death ! for then the angel strode  
With lifted sword by each true pilgrim's side,  
And smote the demons by the darkling road ;  
Then threw the gates of Heaven open wide,  
And God's own smile became eternal day !

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THE DOUBLE BLESSING.

(1887.)

Thy love became my blessing on the day  
When first I looked upon thy gentle face,  
And saw in thy young eyes the stainless grace  
Which fleeting years have failed to steal away.  
At morn or night, when kneeling down to pray  
That love with pure devotion filled the place,  
And with more love for God there grew apace  
More reverence for the Virgin Queen of May!

But Oh! another joy awaited me  
Upon the threshold of my wedded life;—  
For God, even in little things, made thee  
Like my dead mother, and through all earth's strife  
I walk as one twice blest, for I can see  
My mother's virtues living in my wife!

---

TO THE MEMORY OF ALFRED,  
LORD TENNYSON.

O prince, by right divine, of English song!  
Most noble, with nobility inborn;  
Pure-hearted, strong, melodious, free from scorn,  
Thy wondrous voice hath been our solace long.

But now a hush falls on each anxious throng  
Through thy own England on this saddened morn,  
As thou, with holiest labours spent and worn,  
Layest down the burdens which to life belong.  
O! mayest thou "see thy Pilot face to face,"  
Now thou hast "crost the bar" so peacefully!  
And may we—later pilgrims of thy race—  
Cheered by thy songs, with life's tempestuous sea  
Do battle bravely, till by God's own grace  
We too behold His form and meet with thee!

*Thursday, October 6th, 1892.*

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### DEEP LOVE, DEEP SORROW.

Dost thou remember, sweet departed wife,  
How, in the days when thy most holy love  
Lifted my heart all earthly things above,  
We talked of two poor souls, whose foolish strife  
O'er little things embittered half their life,  
And how I, viewing our own peaceful hours,  
Said to thee "Sweet, there is no love like ours  
In all this world with sin and sorrow rife?"

Dost thou remember how the gladsome tone  
Of those repeated words, on many a day  
Made bright thine eyes, made music in thine ears?

And dost thou see me now, amid my tears,  
Forced by the measure of those words to say  
That now there is no sorrow like my own ?

---

SUNSHINE AFTER GLOOM.

O sweet spring day, that followeth weeks of rain,  
I love thee for thyself, when I can see  
Thy glorious sun, that fills the morn with glee,  
And bids man triumph over grief and pain.

Exulting in thy splendour, once again  
I wander gladly o'er the fruitful lea,  
'Mid smiling flowers and songbirds' melody,  
Returning by the hawthorn-scented lane.

But O bright day !—God's gift—I love thee more  
Because thy wealth of perfume, light, and singing,  
Is but a type of Hope once more upspringing  
Within my heart, made desolate of yore !  
For lo ! my Lord, Who to the cross was clinging,  
Brings back the home that sheltered me before.

---

## TO THE MEMORY OF WILLIAM BILLINGTON.

*(Who died January 3rd, 1884.)*

The Singer has departed ; and no more  
Is heard his voice, so strong and clear and sweet,  
Cheering the crowds, in factory and in street,  
With melody, as in the days of yore.

His was a master-mind ; and 'twill be long  
Before old Blackburn, through the smoke and gloom  
That gather round the busy lathe and loom,  
Shall see another half so bright in song.

He needs no lays to blazon forth his name,—  
His *own* will bear it o'er the sea of time !  
Yet I, a child of song, to whom he came  
With friendship true and counsel most sublime,  
Would to his memory dedicate this stave,  
And lay my simple wreath upon his grave.

---

## THE TRINITY OF LOVE.

*(1894.)*

Once, in my earliest days of wedded life,  
My grateful heart o'erflowed in earnest praise  
Of God, Who after my young orphan days,  
Gave back my mother's virtues to my wife.

The song scarce ended ere a desperate strife  
With death began: he conquered, and the sweet  
Young soul that in God's pathway kept my feet  
Had passed, and sorrow pierced me like a knife.

The lonely years went on without desire  
Of any solace in my banishment,  
Till, lo! my loved one, thy true soul was sent  
From hers, and life regained its olden fire:  
While I, prostrate, gave thanks to Him who lent  
To three such souls one power to lift me higher!

---

THE LION OF FLANDERS.

Dear Hendrik Conscience; Master of Romance!  
With tender skill thy pen portrays the lot  
Of humble life in many a rural spot  
Where Grief and Joy meet with familiar glance.  
And when thy country's warriors stern advance  
At thy behest, and battle waxes hot,  
Scarce even our own valiant Walter Scott,  
In *Ivanhoe*, with thee could break a lance!

Lion of Flanders! how thine image glows,  
True Golden Knight! upon the matchless page  
Of Conscience,—this new Iliad in prose,  
Whence streams the light of that heroic age  
When French oppression bred the conquering rage  
With which the guildsmen slew their plundering foes!

---

## JOHN CRITCHLEY PRINCE.

Amongst the workmen-poets of our land  
He stands—a Prince by nature, as by name ;  
A bright star in the firmament of fame,  
Shedding a radiance beautiful and grand !  
Though lowly born, his was a master's hand ;  
And wondrously he swept the heaven-sent lyre,  
As, now with sweetness, then with martial fire,  
He sang the songs that so belovèd stand.

While frail in life, he had a noble mind,  
For nobly rings the music of his song ;  
He laboured for the welfare of mankind,  
A champion of the weak against the strong.  
Long may those sweet and fervent songs endure  
That show his “love for freedom and the poor.”

---

TO HOPE.

Hail ! brightest star of multitudes immense.  
How grandly in the firmament of life  
Thou shinest o'er the scenes of earthly strife,  
With rays so clear, so steady, so intense !

Thy brightness comes from God ; and thou wert given  
To pierce the sable clouds of sin and care ;  
To light us in our battles with despair ;  
And finally to lead us on to Heaven.  
When other lights have faded, thou dost shine  
With greater splendour ; and thy shining brings  
Before us visions holy and divine,  
While, from the soil of sorrow, gladness springs.  
Transcendent Hope ! how wretched should we be  
Were not life's darker hours illumed by thee !

---

### LOVE ETERNAL.

We walked one summer eve—my wife and I—  
Across the fields and down a cool, green lane :  
The flowers, refreshed by recent showers of rain,  
Gave forth sweet odours ; in the western sky  
The sun in fiery splendour sank to rest.  
I gazed upon her face, and as I pressed  
Her yielding hand, I whispered, with a sigh,  
“ How sad to think that, ere we are aware,  
We, like the rest, o'erwhelmed with weight of care,  
Must lose the days of love and youth, and die ! ”  
How sweet and brave her answer ! “ Nay,” she said,  
“ Although we may have thorny paths to tread,  
Love will endure when even life will fly,  
For love was made for endless youth on high ! ”

---

## THE REV. RICHARD DUNDERDALE.

(Rector of St. Mary's, Blackburn ; Died August 9th, 1887.)

There is a grief words have no power to tell :  
It fills the heart when someone near and dear  
Is stretched before our eyes upon the bier,  
And we must bid the long-loved face farewell.

Such is our grief to-day : a friend most true  
To all to whom his kindly heart was known,—  
A spiritual father to his own,—  
Is lowered slowly from our longing view.

His was the faith that knew not storm or cloud ;  
He held it firmly, with a mind serene ;  
Proclaimed its beauties, taught its truths aloud,  
Yet scorned not those by whom they were not seen.

His charity was genial as the sun :  
God grant him rest ; his task was nobly done !

---



## HOGHTON TOWER.

(Built in Queen Elizabeth's reign, by Thomas Hoghton, whose story is quaintly told, under the title of "The Blessed Conscience," in Harland and Wilkinson's "Ballads and Songs of Lancashire.")

Not solely that thou speakest of the hour  
When Royal James and all his train were seen  
To chase the deer about thy woodlands green,  
Do I revere thee, stately Hoghton Tower !  
I think of him who built thy "lordly bower  
Of sports" upon this rocky height serene,  
Yet fled abroad, took Conscience for his Queen,  
And dying gave his memory to her dower.

E'en now I see him wander down the hill,  
And view the lovely landscape, and the sea  
Which in the distance seems so bright and still ;  
And, as he looks with longing back to thee,  
A voice seems through his wavering soul to thrill,  
And says, "Take up thy cross and follow me !"

## AN AFTERNOON IN NOVEMBER.

The sky is leaden, though the drenching rain  
Has ceased to shoot its angry torrents down !  
A sad and dreary aspect has the town,  
For soon the floodgates will be loosed again.  
Beside the fire I sit at leisure—fain  
To learn from Hendrik Conscience the renown

Of my dear Flemish Knights, whose castles brown  
And hoary, pass in vision through my brain.  
Friends of my schooldays are around me, too,  
Full of youth's buoyant hope and sweetest mirth;  
May every year their happiness renew!

And may we—pilgrims wandering o'er this earth—  
Meet now and then, contented as to-day,  
Till life grows dark, then pass in peace away.

*November 19th, 1883.*

---

CHARLES SWAIN.

How truthful are thy verses, noble singer!  
'Tis seldom that amid the crowd we find  
A Bard like thee; for thou didst sing 'The Mind'  
With music whose sweet echoes seem to linger  
About our lives, as though an angel's finger  
Had swept for once across an earthly lyre,  
And left to us the strong, but vain, desire  
To hear again the heavenly solace-bringer  
Peal forth his message from the mountain height  
Whilst we stood listening in the vale below.  
'The Mind' secures thy fame; while pure and bright  
Thy ballad-strains like silver streamlets flow,  
And on dear 'English Melodies' the light  
Of home reflects, like sunbeams on the snow.

---

## SCANDAL.

Behold this man, with handsome form and face,  
Crowned King of Wit, 'mid scenes of reckless mirth ;  
Yet known to Truth as one devoid of worth,  
And made a slave to passions dark and base !  
Oft, when he speaks, Temptation shakes the space  
On which his listeners stand ; a sudden cloud  
O'ershadows Faith, as, growing thunder-loud,  
His voice begins to revel in disgrace.

Then, from the wild volcano of his soul,  
Through his hot lips the burning scandal showers,  
Which, blasting all things in its downward roll,  
Destroys the children—God's most fragrant flowers—  
Sweeps down pure souls that stood like stately trees,  
Wrecks peaceful homes, and leaves a poison in the breeze !

---

TO MR. ORBY SHIPLEY, M.A.

(After reading a series of articles on Ireland.)

Thanks for thy noble words ! for they have taught  
Our English hearts to grieve o'er Erin's wrongs ;  
They have that strength and beauty which belongs  
To love fraternal, joined with lofty thought.

Before we read, dense darkness was around us,  
And Erin, standing out amid the storm,  
Seemed in our eyes a stained and loveless form;  
But, when the sunlight of thy pleading found us  
At morning's prime, we recognised, with thee,  
Her faithful heart, her sorrow, and her beauty;  
And said, "Not Fear, but long-imprisoned Duty  
Bids us arise and set our sister free:  
What need we fear?—our Empire must grow stronger  
When Erin's dark despair estranges her no longer!"

*(Written in 1886.)*





POEMS  
IN THE  
LANCASHIRE DIALECT.

---

THE FIRST CAB.

(A LEGEND OF TURTON.)

Iv there's a two-o'-thre' farmers here  
'At's bin to Turton Fair,  
Just let 'em hearken while aw tell  
A thing that happened there.

'Twere in th' owd days when th' railway train  
Hed never shown id' face,  
An' news would travel slowly to  
A quiet country place.

One summer neet a gallant steed  
Dashed into th' village street,  
An'—wod wer then a curious thing—  
A four-wheeled cab wer wi' 't.

A grandly decorated cab,  
Wi' paint an' colours gay,  
As fine as folks are preawd on yet  
Upon their weddin' day.

Id stopped at front o' th' little Inn,  
A gentleman geet eawt,  
An' then the noisy gossipers  
O creawded reawnd abeawt.

The mother wi' her child i' th' arms,  
The fayther wi' his spade,  
The young uns an' the owd uns stared  
'Till th' driver wer dismayed.

The little lads kept dcdgin' reawnd,  
And plucked the hoss's tail ;  
The lass wi' milk fro' th' dairy grinned  
Fro' underneath her pail.

They stared so hard an' stared so long  
That th' driver blushed an' swore  
He'd bet they'd never sin a cab  
I' o their lives afoor.

An' he wer reet ; for long they talked,  
An' wondered wod id waur  
That th' hoss hed browt to th' country side,  
An' wod sich things were for.

But when they'd talked till they were hooarse,  
They couldn't find id' name ;  
Sooa th' chap geet in, an' th' cab seet off  
As nameless as id came.

Just then id turned a corner, an'  
A little urchin see 't,  
He stared wi' both his e'en ablaze  
At wod this hoss hed wi' 't.

He took id in fro' top to toe,  
An' then he "took his hook,"  
An' ran to fotch his mother cawt  
I' time to hev a look.

“Just si tha, mam, wod’s comin’ here!”—  
His mother ran to see,—  
An’ th’ lad, he pointed eawt the cab,  
An’ said, wi’ mighty glee,—

“So quare a seet wer never sin,  
Aw’m sure, afoor to-day,—  
For a leather cart wi’ windows in  
Is comin’ deawn this way!”

---

### TH’ OWD COT AW WER BORN IN.

(“Air : “Teddy O’Neale.”)

Aw’ve landed once moor i’ th’ owd country this mornin’,  
Where aw lived i’ mi childhood, so careless an’ free ;  
An’ aw’ve just bin to look at th’ owd cot aw wer born in—  
Id stands under t’ shade o’ yon giant oak tree.  
They’n med ter’ble changes sin’ last aw’d a peep in,—  
Sin’ poverty drove us to th’ dark smooky teawn,—  
They’n blocked up th’ owd garrets eawr lads use’ to sleep in,  
Brunt up o th’ hand looms, an’ poo’d th’ weyvin’ shop  
deawn.



But th' pooarch wheer mi granny oft coom wi' her knittin'  
Is just like it waur i' them breet summer heawrs ;  
An' th' owd rustic cheer as mi dad use' to sit in  
Stands under th' gred plum tree, i'th' midst o' some  
fleawrs.

There's childer at play, an' there's merry bells ringin'  
O'er yon little brook, as rowls gaily to th' sea ;  
There's little brids hoppin', an' buildin', an' singin',  
An' one i' yon bush sings a sweet song to me :—

For id chirps like a lad wi' a heart true an' steady,  
'At's waited an' worked for this warm sunny day  
When i'th' dear native spot he's a bonny hooam ready  
For a-lass 'at's bin pinin' i'th' teawn far away.  
Aye, sweet little brid !—thae sings gaily this mornin',  
But nod a bit gayer than Jemmy an' me,—  
For we're just beawn' to live i'th' owd cot aw wer born in,  
An' sing under th' branches, like thy mate an' thee !

---

### HONEST ROGER.

Here's good luck to Honest Roger !  
Find his match 'at con ;  
He's a blunt an' true owd codger —  
Every inch a mon !  
O the daicent chaps 'at know him  
Like his witty tongue ;  
Nowt but two-faced rascals co him,  
When they'n gotten stung !

Roger's varra good at speawtin',  
Rich i' common-sense,  
Though th' owd cooat he knocks abeawt in  
Bod cost eighteenpence.  
He believes id little matters  
Wod yo'n gotten on,  
Iv yer bits o' rags an' tatters  
Clooathe an honest mon.

Wod he says is reet, depend on't,—  
"Search this waurld o through,  
Truth 'll live to win at th' end on't,  
Lies 'll never do !  
Iv a chap's a deawnreet straight un,  
Humble though he be"—  
Says owd Roger—"he's a reight un,  
Just the mon for me !"

Roger likes, just after dinner,  
Chattin' wi' his mates—  
Two-o'-thre' weyvers an' a spinner—  
Deawn bi t' factory gates.  
Mony a bit o' good debatin',  
Mixed wi' gradely fun,  
Passes while they're stannin' waitin'  
Till their 'bell heawr's' done.

Mony a dispute he's decided,  
Mony a feight he's stopped ;  
He's their judge, an' when he's tried id  
Oft the case is dropped.  
Mony a face hes he med sunny,—  
Dried up mony a tear,  
Sin' he geet thad bit o' money  
Left to him last year.

That's the only thing he's sly in—  
Dooin' good to th' poor ;  
Lot's 'at hev no bed to lie in  
Know his friendly door.  
Bless thi heart ! owd Honest Roger.  
Heaven wodn'd be  
Quite as far off earth, owd codger,  
Iv we'd moor like thee !

---

SONG.

SCHOO'MATES TOGETHER.

(Air : " Ben Bolt.")

When we were o schoo'mates together, mi lads,  
Heaw sweet went the merry days then,

We tripped o'er the wild mountain heather, mi lads,  
Or chirped as we strolled through the glen.  
We'd voices as clear as a layrock that sings  
So gaily i'th' welkin aboon,  
An' sheawted farewell to all troublesome things  
At four on a breet afternoon.  
An' sheawted farewell to all troublesome things  
At four on a breet afternoon.

We welcomed the grand summer weather, mi lads,  
When t' sun never winked through the day,  
An' hearts were as leet as a feather, mi lads,  
When t' lasses were workin' i'th' hay.  
When summer wer fadin', we knew wheer to find  
The nuts an' the blackberries too,  
An' through the long winter, wi' th' keen frosty wind,  
O'er th' ice or wi' t' footbo we flew.  
An' through the long winter, wi' th' keen frosty wind,  
O'er th' ice or wi' t' footbo we flew.

Th' owd maister wer olez so cheery, mi lads,  
An' though we were careless an' slow,  
His brain never seemed to ged weary, mi lads,  
But patiently fowt wi' us o.  
He teyched us to strive for wodever wer reet,  
As through this quare waurld we tramped on ;

He'd a gradely owd heart, may his slumber be sweet,  
I' t' wonderful land wheer he's gone.  
He'd a gradely owd heart, may his slumber be sweet,  
I' t' wonderful land wheer he's gone.

He's laid underneath yon owd willow, mi lads,  
Wheer lots of his scholars lie too,  
Wheer poor limp'in' Joe fun' a pillow, mi lads,  
An' Charlie wi' th' e'en breet an' blue.  
There's lasses an' lads i' yon little churchyard  
That bloomed like sweet fleawrs for a day ;  
To' sweet an' to' good for a waurld that wer hard,  
They cheered us an' then slipped away.  
To' sweet an' to' good for a waurld that wer hard,  
They cheered us an' then slipped away.

But still, what's the use o' repinin', mi lads,  
There's lots o' th' owd mates here to-neet,  
An' th' schoo'lasses' faces are shinin', mi lads,  
O'er hooams that eawr childer mek breet.  
Then let kindly feelin's be near us to th' end,  
To keep eawr owd hearts i' good tune,  
For iv we be true to both stranger an' friend,  
We s' ged to be schoo'mates aboon ;  
For iv we be true to both stranger an' friend,  
We s' ged to be schoo'mates aboon !

---

TH' OWD GATE DEAWN AT TH' END  
OV EAWR FOWD.

They tell mo this waurld's olez changin',  
I' th' country as weel as i'th' teawn,  
An' owd Slater said th' last wer comin'  
When his pair o' hand-looms wer poo'd deawn.  
To-day I could welly believe him,—  
For they say, neaw as th' heawses are sowd,  
As they're beawn to cut deawn th' garden hedges  
An' poo' deawn th' owd gate i' eawr fowd.  
It's t' wo'st news aw've heeard for a twelvemonth,  
An' it's med mo feel fifty year' owd,—  
Though it's bod abeawt twelve sin' aw'er swingin'  
On th' gate deawn at th' end ov eawr fowd.

Yo' may think aw'm quite silly for frettin'  
O'er such a quare thing as a gate ;  
But id carries owd time on id' hinges,  
As id swings to an' fro soon an' late.  
Aw remember mi good-hearted fayther  
Pearkt mo onto id mony a time,  
When aw waur but a wee merry lassie,  
An' aw laughed as he sung an owd rhyme ;  
For th' happiest days o' mi childhood,  
When th' waurld wer ne'er gloomy an' coud,  
Wer' spent swingin' back'ard an' forrad  
On th' gate deawn at th' end ov eawr fowd !

An' then, O ! heaw weel aw remember  
Heaw mi heart leapt wi' love pure an' sweet,  
When i' t' middle o' bonny September  
Young Charlie coom cooartin' one neet ;  
Heaw he tow'd mo th' owd stooary so tender,  
An' begged mo to help him through life ;  
Heaw he said for twelvemonths he'd bin longin'  
To mek mo his own little wife !  
Aw s' ne'er i' this lifetime forged id—  
Heaw sweetly thad love tale wer tow'd,  
As we stood when th' owd sun wer just settin'  
Bi th' gate deawn at th' end ov eawr fowd !

We were wel when o t' spring birds were singin'  
An' t' fleawrs were just buddin' on t' trees,  
An' t' bells o' th' owd church gaily ringin',  
Tow'd th' stooary to th' sweet mornin' breeze !  
An' then we walked hooam to th' owd cottage,  
An' t' merriment sterted for t' day ;  
'They were dancin' till welly next mornin'—  
T' lads an' lasses were never so gay.  
But Charlie an' me into t' moonleet  
Crept eawt—mon an' wife—an' still vowed  
To be lovers for ever an' ever  
Bi th' gate deawn at th' end ov eawr fowd !

Sin' then, as aw've said, there's bin changes—  
Mi fath'er went Hooam to his rest,

An' t' best mother soon followed after  
As e'er held a child to her breast.  
But aw've still Charlie here, an' mi childer—  
Two rooases—a lass an' a lad ;  
An' aw think, tekkin' life o'together,  
We'n nod so mich cause to be sad :  
For true love can drive away sorrow  
Far better nor silver an' gowd ;  
So aw'll keep a leet heart for to-morrow,  
Though aw'm loysin' th' owd gate i' eawr fowd !

---

DEAWN BI T' RIBBLE SIDE.

(Air: "Love at Home.")

When the settin' sun shines breet  
O'er the silver tide,  
Oft aw stray wi' lingerin' feet  
Deawn bi t' Ribble side.  
While the wavelets whisper near,  
Aw con sheed a lonely tear  
O'er mi youthful days so dear,  
Deawn bi t' Ribble side.

Silvery tide, sweetly glide,  
Bring me back those youthful days,  
Deawn bi t' Ribble side.



Here aw use' to laugh an' play,  
Full o' boyish pride:—  
Like a dreeam id seems to-day,  
Deawn bi t' Ribble side.  
Schoo'mates' voices clear an' strong,  
Dear young faces cherished long,  
Use' to mek a merry throng  
Deawn bi t' Ribble side.

Silvery tide, sweetly glide,  
Bring me back those merry days,  
Deawn bi t' Ribble side.

Theer one neet the stars did shine  
O'er mi promised bride,  
When hoo gave her heart for mine,  
Deawn bi t' Ribble side.  
Two true hearts 'at love med one,  
Grew moor fond as time went on,  
While sweet childer's faces shone,  
Deawn bi t' Ribble side.

Silvery tide, sweetly glide,  
Bring me back those lovelit days,  
Deawn bi t' Ribble side.

Some are gone to foreign lands,  
O'er the ocean wide—  
Only one owd schoo'mate stands  
Deawn bi t' Ribble side.

Owd an' lonely, soon aw'll creep  
Wheer yo' see yon grey church peep,  
Theer mi wife an' childer sleep,  
Deawn bi t' Ribble side.

Silvery tide, sweetly glide,  
Sing for ever o'er mi grave,  
Deawn bi t' Ribble side.

---

### JOHNNY'S WATCH.

Theer's Johnny! he's nowt but a tenter,  
His clooas are owd an' worn,  
But his mam says a blessin' wer sent her  
Thad mornin' as he wer born.  
Aw'll tell yo, there isn'd so mony  
As doesn'd think weel o' him ;—  
There's a tale often tow'd abeawt Johnny  
As meks fooak's e'en grow dim.

His mother wer left a poor widow,  
An' he wer her only child ;  
He cheered her when sorrow coom o'er her,  
An' his heart leeapt up when hoo smiled.  
Aw know yo'll hev sin 'em together—  
They plodded through t' streets bi theirsels',  
An' geet up i' o sooarts o' weather  
When they heeard the factory bell.

One mornin' a while afoor Christmas  
Poor Johnny wer cryin' his fill,—  
He'd to go to his work beawt his mother,  
For hoo'd been ta'en suddenly ill.  
He left her i'th' care ov a neighbour,  
An' went; wi' a heart like lead,  
To his weary an' tiresome labour  
To struggle for daily bread.

There waur but thad little hafe-timer,  
For mony a sorrowin' day,  
To toyl for thad poor lonely woman  
While tossin' i'th' fayver hoo lay.  
But charity browt fooak near her  
As hardly hed known her afoor;  
An' neighbours to help her an' cheer her  
Were never away fro' t' door.

An' so hoo wer soon eawt o' danger,—  
But still hoo kept lingerin' on,  
An' couldn'd ged much ov her strength back,  
Though mony a week hed gone.  
Poor Johnny! he knew hoo wer pinin'  
For some'at moor daicent to eyt :—  
Iv yo' want to hev ill fooak dinin',  
Yo' mun tempt 'em wi' tasty meyt.

Id wer geddin' near th' examination,  
An' Johnny wer missin' his schoo';  
But he knew o' some wonderful prizes,  
An' he med up his mind what to do:—  
He wodn'd say owt to his mother,  
But he'd work like a giant to pass,  
An' to win wod the maister's rich brother  
Wer givin' to th' best lad i'th' class.

I'th' midst ov his hunger an' sorrow,  
He moytherd an' studied away;  
An' his prize wer a watch o' silver  
Thad examination day!  
Yo' should ha' heeard th' schoo' childer cheerin'  
When they fun' eawt wod Johnny hed won,  
An' t' maister could scarce' ged a hearin'  
To praise him for wod he hed done.

Thad neet Johnny stood in a watch shop,  
Wi' a policeman clooase at his side:—  
For th' watch-maker thowt he'd been steysin',  
An' coed him a thief till he cried.  
But th' "bobby" soon fun' as he knew him—  
*His* childer hed tow'd him the tale—  
So they couldn'd do owt else to him  
Than let the lad finish his sale!

When Johnny geet hooam he wer looaded  
· Wi' dozens o' dainty things ;  
His mother 'd ha' thowt him an angel  
Iv he hedn'd bin short o' wings !  
But when he unravelled his stooary  
The tears coom into her e'en,—  
Id med her booath happy an' sooary,  
An' as preawd ov her lad as a queen.

Her happiness conquered her illness,  
An' Johnny wer leet an' gay ;  
An' *somebody* geet to hear on 't ;—  
But waited till Christmas day,  
When the watch, so breet and bonny,  
Coom back through t' pooastmon's hand,  
Wi' a letter i' praise o' Johnny,  
“The noblest lad in the land.”

---

THE WINTER'S COMIN' ON, MI LASS.

The winter's comin' on, mi lass,  
The north wind's blowin' cowl :  
Aw'm sure we've cooarted long enough,  
It's time eawr tale wer towld,  
The brids 'at sung i' yonder tree  
Are flown across the brine,  
An' aw've a cheery hooam for thee,  
Where love's breet sun can shine.

Tha doesno' want to ged mo lost  
Among the moorland snow,  
Thi laugh belies tha when tha says  
Aw needn'd come at o.  
When t' weather's wild, we cornd ged eawt  
A-walkin' hafe an heawr,  
There's olez some'at rough abeawt,—  
A snowstorm or a sheawr.

An' when aw come an' stop i'th' heawse  
Yore lads mek sich a din  
That iv aw've bod two words to say  
Aw connod ged 'em in.  
Thi fayther will talk politics,  
An' likes a reawnd wi' me,—  
He thinks aw come a-campin' him,  
An' nod a-cooartin' thee.

An' when there's nob'ry else i'th' place,  
Yore Molly ceawrs i'th' nook,  
As quate an' wakken as a meawse,  
Wi' th' papper or a book;  
Hoo reads a deel, an' one would think  
Her common sense would tell  
'At cooarters sometimes like an heawr  
To whisper bi theirsel'.

Thi fayther thinks when fooak geds wed  
They should hev lots o' brass,—  
A mon should hev his fortune med  
Afoor he claims his lass.  
Aye, well! aw'm wo'th a field or two,  
A bonny cot an' o ;  
An' when there's steady hands at th' plough  
Sich things are sure to grow.

The sweetest charm o' wedded life  
Is nod i' fortunes grand ;  
It's nau'but known to th' mon an' wife  
'At's strivin' hand-in-hand.  
The lark 'at builds id' own wee nest  
Is merry wi' id' mate,  
While mony a soul can find no rest  
Inside a palace gate.

An' neaw aw've welly done, mi lass,  
Mi stooary's gotten tow'd ;—  
An' winter's comin' on, mi lass,  
The north wind's blowin' cōwd,—  
Come show thi bonny e'en to me,  
Clasp thy two hands i' mine,  
An' say tha'll claim wod waits for thee,  
An' mek yon sweet cot thine.

---

## LANCASHIRE FUN.

When the leet fades away  
At the closin' o' day,  
An' toilin' an' scrapin' are done,  
It's merry an' sweet  
Wi' mi true mates to meet  
For an heawr or two's Lancashire fun.

They sit reawnd yon fire,  
An' their tongues never tire,  
As they tell o'th' wild marlocks they played  
When youth's merry days  
Seet their spirits ablaze,  
An' they'd never known friendship to fade.

O! there's o sooarts o' wit,  
But there's nowt as can hit  
The breet spot i' this grey heyd o' mine  
Like a crack or a song  
I' eawr Lancashire tongue,  
For id raises owd mem'ries so fine.



An' the breet days ov owd,  
When mi heart wer so bowd  
An' aw only knew sorrow bi name,  
Seem as fresh an' as clear  
As the smiles aw meet here  
When aw come mi owd cronies to claim.

Then aw'll tooast yo', mi lads,  
May yer sons—like their dads—  
Still be merry, straight-forrad, an' true ;  
For a bit o' gay chaff,  
Or a reet hearty laugh,  
Nayther horts a wise mon nor a foo'.

An' as years rowl along,  
May they join in a song  
Otogether, when toilin' is done,  
Wi' their hearts just as leet,  
As yer own are to-neet,  
Through an heawr or two's Lancashire fun !

---

## OWD JEMMY.

What ! never knowed owd Jemmy, lad,  
As use' to live up yon ?—  
Kept hens, an' wooave o' th' owd hand-looms—  
Well, thae'rt a bonny mon !  
Aw'll bet there waurn'd a single sowl,  
Fro' here to th' end o' th' looan,  
As dudn'd wish owd Jemmy weel,  
Or mourn when he wer gooan.

Aw've set on th' seeatboard mony an heawr,  
While he booath wooave an' sung,  
Or ceawrd bi th' fire, an' hearkened th' tales  
As he spun off his tongue.  
He'd talk o' th' cruel Corn Law days,  
When fleawr wer sixpence th' peawnd,  
An' t' corn wer kept fro' t' starvin' poor,  
Then chucked i' t' sea unseawnd.

Iv thae'rt a Tory, dornd be mad  
At wod aw'm beawn' to tell,—  
He often said as th' Corn Law gang  
Hed sprung fro' "him i' hell !"  
That's rayther strong ; but them sad days  
Hed robbed him ov his mam,  
An' left him, an' some moor beside,  
To work an' cry an' clam.

Sometimes he'd hev a noysy lot  
O' rampin', laughin' lads  
Set reawnd his fire, while he tow'd tales  
Abeawt their youthful dads;—  
Wod fun they hed, wod tricks they played,  
When he wer in his prime,—  
Aw'm sure he welly med th' lads ill  
Wi' laughin', mony a time.

But mooast ov o, owd Jemmy loved  
A pratty little child ;  
Id mattered nowt wod troubled him—  
Iv he si one he smiled ;  
He'd welly olez one bi th' hand  
When ramblin' to and fro',  
An' t' youngsters seemed to think as he  
Wer th' Grandad to 'em o.

To'ard th' latter end he use' to say  
He'd be content to dee,  
Iv he mut sit at " Heaven's door,"  
Wi' a child on oather knee.  
An' when his life wer gooin' deawn,  
Like th' ocean's ebbin' tide,  
He couldn'd be contented till  
They browt one to his side.

He passed away i' t' summer time,  
 When roses were i' bloom ;  
 An' th' owd sun brook through t' cleawds o' grief  
 As hung o'er o i'th' room.  
 Aw think his sowl's at rest.—“ Aye, sure ;  
 An' hes bin mony a day ;  
 For sich a good owd heart as his  
 Could ne'er go far astray ! ”

---

### THE HOOAM OV A LANCASHIRE MON.

Aw've tramped a good deel through mi own native land,  
 Aw've anchored mi boat on a far foreign strand,  
 Bin cast among riches, an' poverty too,  
 Hed work, an' bin wantin' for some'at to do.  
 Aw've slept in a palace, an' lodged in a tent,  
 An' kept mi e'en oppen wherever aw went,  
 But ov o sooarts o' hooams aw could never find one  
 To compare wi' the hooam ov a Lancashire mon.

Aw remember quite weel heaw aw've oft laid mo deawn  
 I' mi quare lookin' bed i' thad Indian teawn  
 Wheer aw sowjerd a while, an' mi efforts to skeeam  
 A tidy neet's sleep use' to end in a dreeam  
 Ov a little thacked cot in a little green fowd,  
 Wheer aw lived when aw waur but a dozen year' owd ;  
 An' aw sighed when aw wakkened to find id o gone—  
 Thad hooam wheer aw grew up a Lancashire mon.

There's no place i'th' waurld hafe so snug or so sweet,  
When a fella comes back fro' his work ov a neet,  
As the spot wheer he meets wi' the joys ov his life—  
His wee bonny childer an' hard-workin' wife.  
An' iv yo be anxious to learn an' to see  
Heaw blithe an' contented a toycler can be,  
Yo'll find th' best example 'at ever yo con  
In the hooam ov a steady young Lancashire mon.

There's a reet hearty welcome whenever yo co,  
For Lancashire feelin' hes full room to flow,  
Id isn'd chooaked up wi' so mich empty pride,  
An' hypocracy ne'er comes to poison id' tide :  
But clear an' unhindered id rowls on id' way,  
An' strangers 'at's tasted id olez will say  
As the kindest fooak they could ever leet on  
Were found in the hooam ov a Lancashire mon.

Just co at yar Tum's: th' kettle hums upo' th' hob,  
An' his wife sings a song to their Nelly an' Bob ;  
For they're o fain to see him ged hooam to his tay  
After drivin' four looms o this dark lookin' day.  
Wi' th' childer, it's which can be th' fost on his knee,  
Their love for their fayther's untrammelled an' free ;  
An' his wife, tentin' t' meyt 'at hoo's fryin' i' t' pon,  
Thinks there's nob'ry so true as her Lancashire mon.

Iv yo'll stop till they'n just gotten th' childer to bed,  
 Yo'll hear a rare bit o' Ned Waugh sung or read ;  
 An' theer yo'll sit sighin' and laughin' bi turns  
 At the wisdom and wit ov eawr Lancashire Burns.  
 An' when yo've shaken hands wi' a ringin' ' good neet,'  
 An' th' cottage behind yo fades slow fro' yer seet,  
 Yo'll say " there's some true English happiness yon,"  
 An' be preawd o' the hooam ov a Lancashire mon !

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### HE COULDN'D COME.

One fine Sunda' mornin' when th' church bells wer ringin  
 To co th' Preston fooak to their prayin' an' singin',  
 A bunch o' young ruffins hed dodged th' Sunda' schoo',  
 An' were lookin' abeawt for some mischief to do,  
 When one little dule said " Aw'll tell yo' wod, lads,  
 Let's pop o'er this wo—eawt o' th' seet o' wer dads—  
 An' play on th' cut bank till o th' service is done ;  
 Aw've a good set o' dominoes—here's off for fun ! "

Wi' thad, in a jiffy, he beawnced onto th' wo ;  
 His mates followed after, nod one on 'em slow ;  
 An' soon the young gamblers (for thad's wod they waur)  
 Hed th' dominoes eawt, an' wer mekkin' a stor  
 For a gradely good game in a quate little nook,  
 Where nob'ry frae th' street would be likely to look.  
 An' theer they sat playin' bi th' side o' th' canel,  
 Wi' nob'ry to see 'em their faythers to tell.

They played hofe an heawr i' this snug little spot,  
An' then th' game begun to ged noysy an' hot;  
For little Bill Dykes, wi' a voyce like a drum,  
Bawls eawt to his mate, "*Neaw, mi nabs, con ta come?*"  
"Thae noysy young crackpot," his mate answered,  
    "*Nowe!*"  
Dost want 'em to hear us i' th' street, thae young foo?"  
"Nod aw, lad!" said Billy, "but *aw* s' nod be dumb  
For th' sake o' fooak hearin'—once moor, Con ta come?"

Afoor th' other lad could mek answer at o,  
A gred strappin' Bobby coom beawncin' o'er th' wo  
Sheawtin' "*Nowe, lads, but aw con come: stop yer wild  
    racket,*"  
Aw'll put every one on yo in a strait jacket!"  
Wi' thad he gave chase; but he only catched one,  
An' thad wer poor Billy—the noysiest mon!  
O th' others, like hares, darted swift eawt o' th' seet,  
An' left him wi' th' dominoes strewn at his feet.

The Bobby marched Billy deawn th' bank varra stately,  
An' th' lad, for a wonder, went humbly and quately;  
But afoor they reyched th' brig to cross o'er into th' street,  
A gred creawd o' folk they're beginnin' to meet,  
For a church wer just locin'; an' comin' deawn th' broo  
Folk could see onto th' bank, an' hev quite a good view  
O' th' prisoner an' th' pleecemon that walked bi his side;  
An' this bothered Billy, for th' lad hed some pride.

“Aw’ll tell yo wod, pleecemon,” he said varra foce,  
“Aw wish for a minute yo’d just let mo loce.  
Eawr fooak ’ll be comin’ fro’ th’ church across th’ street,  
An’ mi mother ’ll faint iv hoo sees mo this seet.  
There’s th’ wo at this side, an’ there’s watter at th’ other—  
Aw cornd ged away: but for th’ sake o’ mi mother,  
Let mo walk bi misel’ for a minute or two,  
An’ then they’ll nod know ’at there’s bin owt to do.”

Well, th’ Bobby looked reawnd, an’ agreed wi’ his mate  
’At there waurn’d hofe a chance for to get eawt o’ th’ gate;  
So he leet the lad loce ’at he’d howden so fast,  
An’ they walked bi theirsels till o th’ fooak hed gone past.  
The lad toddled on quate enough for a while;  
An’ th’ Bobby were hummin’ a tune i’ rare style,  
When, sudden as gunshot, th’ lad med a dash,  
An’ *jumped i’ th’ canel*, wi’ a yell an’ a splash.

Th’ poor Bobby wer varra near frettened to deeth;  
But afoor he hed time to recover his breeath,  
Like leetnin’, hofe way across th’ wayter Bill swum,  
An’ then, wi’ a grin, sheawted, “*Neaw* con ta come?  
Wod says ta, owd matie?”—“Nowe, dall thi rags! Nowe!  
Thae smart little rascal, thae’s tricked mo, bi gow!”  
“Aye,” th’ lad sheawted back, “aw wer just thinkin’ sooa,  
Thae connod come neaw; but thae sees *aw con gooa!*”

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## GIVE EVERY MON HIS DUE.

Aw've rambled up an' deawn this waurld  
For five-an'-sixty year',  
Aw've booath hed mony a merry laugh  
An' mony a lonely tear;  
Aw'm one as knows booath friends an' foes,—  
There's lots o' things aw rue,—  
But this is still mi motto, lads,  
Give every mon his due.

Ov cooarse, when aw wer green an' young,  
Like mony a lad beside,  
'Aw use' to think this waurld knew o,  
An' bowed before id' pride :  
But soon aw fun' that iv a mon  
Were poor as weel as true,  
'Twere ten to one though hard he toiled  
He'd never ged his due.

Yo' see, there's sich a lot o' fooak  
'At's bod one gradely e'e,—  
They peep an' smile at th' rich an' fine,  
But th' poor they connod see.  
They'll like a mon iv he geds on,  
An' joins their waurldly crew,  
But iv he does his best an' fails,  
They think no praise is due.

There's some fooak laughs when t' weather's fine,  
An' cosses when id rains,—  
Sich like 'll cooart the men wi' brass  
But scorn the men wi' brains.  
There's mony a chap gi'es o his peawrs  
To help his neighbours through,  
But, like th' owd sun that feeds yon fleawrs,  
He seldom geds his due.

When dark an' deadly slander comes  
To cleawd a mon's good name,  
There's olez lots o' idle tongues  
To spreyd th' unwelcome fame ;  
But give to me them kindly sowsls—  
Aw wish they waurn'd so few—  
That patient bide, watch every side,  
An' give the mon his due.

Oh, mates ! i' country place an' teawn,  
Through t' length an' breadth o' t' land,  
There's mony a lonely heart goes deawn  
Witheawt a helpin' hand.  
But let goodwill be near us still,  
When others' fau'ts we view,  
For One Aboon 'll render soon  
To every mon his due !

---

## A COUNTRY LIFE FOR ME.

A country life for me, mi lads,  
A country life for me !  
O'er breezy hills an' fleawry dales  
Aw s' ramble till aw dee.  
Aw fost si leet wheer t' sky wer breet  
An' throstles sung so gay,  
An' olez loved th' owd country side  
When aw wer miles away.

Eawr Bill, 'at lives i' yonder teawn,  
Thinks th' country varra grand  
When t' summer sun shines gaily deawn,  
An' breetens o the land ;  
But when there's snow or cowl winds blow  
I' th' bracin' winter time,  
O'er yon owd hill that parts us two  
Aw connod mek him climb.

He says it's ankle deep i' slutch  
So wheer yo set yer feet,  
An' t' looans are awful after dark  
For want o' gradely leet.  
Beawt music-halls, theatres, balls,  
Or owt to pass time on,  
He thinks he'd be a gradely foo'  
Afoor a month hed gone.

Well, well! aw cornd expect as fooak  
Will o think like misel',  
But why they dornd, o'er sich a thing,  
Is moor nor aw con tell.  
When t' rain comes deawn so dree i' th' teawn  
A fella's spirit drops  
To ceawr i' th' heawse wi' nowt to see  
But slates and chimbley tops.

I' th' daytime factory chimblies belch  
Their smook i' mony a street,  
There's drunken fooak an' railway trains  
As rowl abeawt o neet.  
There's childer thin 'at's never sin  
The bonny brids an' trees,  
Their faces look so white for want  
O' th' healthy country breeze.

Aye, give to me the country lanes,  
Where peace an' quateness dwell,  
For theer a sweetness floods mi heart  
As words can never tell!  
O'er breezy hills an' fleawry dales  
Aw'm fain to ramble still,  
An' fo asleep i' th' owd churchyard  
At th' foot o' yonder hill.

---

EAWR DICK'S BEAWN A-COOARTIN'  
TO-NEET.

There's twopence bin gi'n to eawr Johnny  
For cleynin' a new pair o' shoon ;  
Some 'bacco's bin bowt for mi gronny,  
For airin' yon breeches o' th' oon ;  
A reet hearty kiss to eawr Lizzie,  
For fixin' a collar on reet :—  
Yo wonder wod meks o so busy,—  
Eawr Dick's beawn a-cooartin' to-neet !

For mony a week he's bin pinin',  
An' ceawrin' i' th' nook like a foo' ;  
But neaw t' sun's beginnin' o' shinin',  
An' t' sky shows a wee bit o' blue.  
His luck hes bin varra like th' weather,  
But things are at last geddin' breet,—  
Aw've sin him an' Nelly together,  
An' Dick's beawn a-cooartin' to-neet.

He's just hed a dust wi' mi fayther  
O'er nod comin' in afoor ten ;  
Mi dad tells him straight as he'd rayther  
Nod see bits o' lads actin' men :  
“ When he wer a lad, there wer never  
Sich pride when a lass wer to meet.”—  
Mi gronny chimes in, “ Well, iv ever !—  
What's up wi' thi memory to-neet ? ”

Mi mother toyls on—Heaven bless her !  
Hoo hesn'd a deecal to say ;  
Though aw *waur* feeard th' news would distress her,  
When hoo heeard id so sudden to-day.  
For Dick thinks the waurld ov his mother,  
He's kind, an' his temper's so sweet ;  
Hoo knows 'at hoo'll ne'er see another  
Like him as goes cooartin' to-neet.

But hoo likes the shy look o' good natur'  
As shines i' sweet Nelly's blue e'en ;  
For t' lass is as daicent a craytur  
As ever coom trippin' o'er t' green.  
Her bonny face fills mo wi' pleasure,  
Whenever aw happen to see 't,—  
May joy be shared eawt i' full measure  
To them as goes cooartin' to-neet !

Good heavens ! O t' drawers are upended,  
He's left o his rags upo' t' floor ;  
His stockin's hev o to be mended,  
While he's swellin' off eawt o' t' door !  
Ne'er mind ! Aw s' be like to excuse him,—  
His heart's med his heyd a bit leet,—  
An' aw know Nelly wi'-nod refuse him,  
When Dick goes a-cooartin' to-neet.

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## PHILOSOPHER BILL.

Aw'm just gooin' deawn for a pipe an' a gill  
An' a hofe an heawr's camp wi' Philosopher Bill ;  
He's the faucest owd chap that aw ever did see,  
Wi' a reet merry twinkle i' oather blue e'e.  
O, them e'en ov owd Bill's! they con look a mon through,—  
He con tell in a crack a wise chap fro' a foo' :  
Id wer just through him reading fooak's thowts wi' sich  
skill  
That he fust geet the name o' Philosopher Bill.

He's nod to co rich ; but he's ne'er discontent,  
For his life, like his money, 's bin ter'ble weel spent :  
His motto wer olez " tek keer o' yer own ;  
Mek yer childer do th' same ; let your neighbours alone ;  
Dornd lock up yer heart when yo lock yer heawse door,  
But keep a warm place in 't for th' wanderin' poor ;  
For wi' givin' some beggar an owd pair o' shoon  
Yo may find a new pair when yo 're climbin' Aboon ! "

But the things he cries deawn wi' o th' strength ov his  
lungs  
Are envious fooak an' their envious tongues :—  
" They're th' seawrdocs o' th' waurld," so he said  
yesterneet,  
" An' they cornd abide th' appos for tastin' so sweet.  
So they tittle an' tattle, an' poo' a long face,  
Iv yo keep yersel' wakken an' lick 'em i' th' race ;  
An' though yo'd to walk, while they rooad in a cart,  
They'll whimper like lads ' Tha'd to' mich ov a start.' "

“ Iv yer merry an’ single, an’ howds up yer yed,  
They’ll say, ‘ Thad’ll hev to be tamed when it’s wed ; ’  
Iv yo ’re wed, wi’ two childer, while they’ve a lot moor,  
They’ll wish to the Lord yo’ wer pown wi’ a scoor ;  
Iv a chap an’ his mate con keep thick o their life,  
They’re sure to cry ‘ henpeck ’ at him or his wife ;  
An’ sooa they keep singin’ wherever yo’ torn,  
‘ One hofe o’ this waurld doesn’d know as its born ! ’ ”

“ Heaw different,” says Bill, “ are th’ owd mates we’ve  
booath known,  
’ At ’ll mek both yer luck an’ misfortunes their own,  
An’ ll olez contrive to be somewheer abeawt  
When yer lamp o’ good fortune hes welly gone eawt.  
O, they’ll feed the dull flame wi’ a word o’ good cheer,  
An’ rejoice i’ their hearts when id blazes eawt clear,  
For they’n pity an’ charity strong i’ their breast,  
An’ th’ angels keep guard when they lie deawn to rest.”

Aw’ve hearkened owd Bill till mi e’en wer quite dim,  
An’ aw’ve often thowt angels coom talkin’ to him ;  
For though sometimes he rages at wrong an’ disate,  
There’s nob’ry i’ th’ waurld as he knows heaw to hate !  
May he live to be moor nor a hundred year’ owd,  
Wi’ his cupboard weel packed, an’ his hearth never cowl,  
An’ his daicent owd dame to keep breetenin’ still  
The last cheery days o’ Philosopher Bill.

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MERRY MATES.

(Air: "Fill the Bumper Fair.")

Merry mates are we,  
    Passin' reawnd together  
Jovial tales an' free,  
    Carin' nowt for th' weather.  
Winter winds, we know,  
    Reawnd abeawt are sobbin',  
Still among the snow  
    Chirps the breet red robin.

Every heart that's leet,  
    Laughin' meks id leeter;  
Every face that's breet,  
    Fun 'll mek id breeter.  
Tell yer merry tales,  
    Wind yer gowden bobbin,  
Through owd Winter's gales  
    Chirps eawr own Cock Robin.

Theer's a singer true,  
    Leet of heart an' limber,  
One owd fiddle, too,  
    Built o' gradely timber.  
Oft young Robin sings,  
    While owd Roger's fingers  
Wakken th' witchin' strings  
    Wheer sweet music lingers.

Iv thae'rt feelin' seawr,  
Stor thi stumps, owd codger,  
Come an' spend an heawr  
Campin' wi' owd Roger.  
Dunnot be a foo',  
Dunnot pine an' shiver,  
Join owd Roger's schoo',  
Laughin' 's good for th' liver.

We'll mek room for thee,  
While we tell together  
Merry tales an' free,  
Carin' nowt for th' weather.  
Winter winds, we know,  
Reawnd abeawt are sobbin',  
Still among the snow  
Chirps the breet red robin.

F I N I S .



## Glossary to the Dialect Poems.

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Abeawt, about  
Aboon, above  
Afoor, before  
An', and  
Appos, apples  
As, 'At, that  
Aw, I  
Aw'll, I will  
Aw s', I shall  
Aye, sure ; yes, certainly

Bawls eawt, calls out  
Beawn to, bound to, going to  
Beawt, without  
Bell-heawr, meal time  
Bi theirsels', by themselves,  
alone

Bin, been  
Bobby, policeman  
Bod, but, only  
Booat, boat  
Bowt, bought  
Brass, money  
Breet, bright  
Brid, bird  
Browt, brought  
Broo, brow  
Brooak, broke  
Brunt, burnt  
Bud, but, only

Campin', chatting.  
Canel, Canal  
Catchd, caught  
Ceawrd, cowered  
Chaff, banter  
Chap, fellow  
Cheer, chair  
Childer, children  
Chimbley, chimney  
Chucked, thrown  
Clam, starve  
Cleawds, clouds  
Cleynin', cleaning  
Clooas, clothes  
Co, (1) call, (2) abuse  
Codger (Cadger), fellow  
Con, can  
Connod, cannot  
Cooat, coat  
Cooartin', courting  
Coom, came  
Corn'd, cannot  
Cosses, curses, curse  
Cowd, cold  
Crack, (1) an instant, (2) a joke  
or merry anecdote  
Craytur, creature  
Creawded, crowded  
Cronies, mates  
Cut, canal

Dad, father  
 Daicent, decent  
 Deawn, down  
 Dee, die  
 Disate, deceit  
 Doesno', does not, dost not  
 Dooin', doing  
 Dorn'd, don't  
 Dree, monotonous  
 Dreeam, dream  
 Drooav, drove  
 Dudn'd, did not  
 Dust, a warm discussion  
 Dule (Devil), smart fellow  
  
 Eawr, our  
 Eawt, out  
 E'e, eye ; E'en, eyes  
 'Em, them  
 Eyt, eat  
  
 Fauce (False), knowing, wise  
 Fayther, father  
 Fayver, fever  
 Feeard, afraid  
 Fella, fellow  
 Fleawr, (1) flour, (2) flower  
 Fo, fall  
 Foo', fool  
 Fooak, folk  
 Footbo', football  
 Forged, forget  
 Forrad, forward  
 Fost, first  
 Fotch, fetch  
 Fowd, fold, yard  
 Fowt, fought, toiled  
 Fun', found  
  
 Ged, get ; Geddin, getting  
 Geet, got  
 Getten, gotten  
 Gill (Jill), in Lancashire, half-a  
 pint  
 Gi'n, given  
 Gooa, go ; Gooan, gone  
 Gowd, gold  
 Gradely, proper-ly, thorough-ly  
 Gred, great

Gronny, granny  
  
 Hafe, or Hofe, half  
 Hafe-timer (Half-timer), a child  
 who works during one half of  
 each day and attends school  
 the other half  
 Heaw, how  
 Heawr, hour  
 Heawse, house  
 Hed, had  
 He'd, (1) he had, (2) he would  
 Heear'd, heard  
 Hes, has ; Hev, have  
 Heyd, head  
 Hob, side of fireplace opposite  
 oven  
 Hoo, she  
 Hooam, home  
 Hooarse, hoarse  
 Horts, hurts  
 Hoss, horse  
  
 I', in  
 Id, it ; Id', its  
 Ill fooak, sick folks  
 Iv, if  
  
 Jannock, genuine  
 Jiffy, instant  
  
 Keer, care  
 Knowed, knew  
  
 Layrock, lark  
 Leeap, leap  
 Leet, light  
 Leet on, alight upon, discover  
 Lick, beat  
 Limber, lithe, active  
 Loce, loose  
 Looan, lane  
 Lots, plenty  
 Loysin', losing  
  
 Mad, vexed  
 Maister, master  
 Mam, mother  
 Marlocks, practical jokes  
 Meawse, mouse

Meawths, mouths  
Med, made ; Mek, make  
Meyt, meat  
Mi, my ; Misel', myself  
Mich, much  
Mo, me  
Mon, man ; Mony, many  
Mooast, most  
Moor, more  
Moytherd, worried, troubled  
Mun, must ; Mut, might

Nau'but, naught but  
Neaw, now  
Neet, night  
Nob'ry, nobody  
Nod, not  
Nod, a, a doze, a sleep  
Nor, than  
Nowe, no (the negative answer)  
Nowt, nought  
Noysy, noisy

O, all  
O', of, on  
Oather, either  
Olez, always  
On, of  
Oak, oak  
Oon, Oven  
Oppen, open  
Otogether, altogether  
Ov, of  
Owd, old  
Owt, aught, anything, ought

Papper, paper, newspaper  
Peawnd, pound  
Peawrs, powers  
Peearkt, perched  
Pleecemon, policeman  
Pon, pan  
Poo'd, pulled  
Pooarch, porch  
Pratty, pretty  
Prawd, proud

Quare, queer  
Quate, quiet

Rayther, rather  
Reawnd, round  
Reet, Reight, right  
Rowls, rolls  
Ruffins (Ruffians), rough lads  
Scoor, score  
Seawnd, sound  
Seawr, sour  
Seeatbooard, the seatboard of  
a handloom  
Seet, sight ; See 't, see it, saw  
it.

Seet off, started off  
Set, sat  
Sheawr, shower  
Sheawted, shouted  
Sheed, shed, let fall  
Si, (1) see, (2) saw  
Sich, such  
Sin, seen ; Sin', since  
Skeeam, scheme  
Slutch, sludge  
Smooky, smoky  
Some'at, somewhat, something  
Sooa, so ; Sooart, sort  
Sowd, sold  
Sowjered, soldiered, served in  
the army  
Sowl, soul  
Speawtin' (Spouting), speech-  
making  
Stannin', standing  
Sterted, started  
Steylin', stealing  
Stooary, story  
Stor thi stumps, stir thy feet  
Swellin', swelling, swaggering

T', Th', the  
Ta, Tha, Thae, thou  
Tay, tea  
Teawn, town  
Tekkin', taking  
Tentin', attending to  
Tenter, weaver's assistant  
Ter'ble, terrible, wonderful  
Teyched, taught  
Thad, that  
Thae'rt, Tha'rt, thou art

Thacked, thatched  
 Theer, there  
 Theirsel', themselves  
 They'n, they have  
 Thick, friendly  
 Thowt, thought  
 To'ard, To'art, toward  
 Took his hook, ran off  
 Towd, told  
 Toyler, toiler  
 Two-o'-thre' (two or three), a  
 few

Uns, ones

Varra, very  
 Voyce, voice

Wakken, waken  
 Watter, Wayter, water  
 Waur, were, was  
 Waurld, world  
 Weel, well

Welly, well nigh  
 We'n, we have  
 Wer, short sound of *were* ; used  
 in dialect for *was*, and occasion-  
 ally for *our*  
 We s', we shall  
 Weyvin', weaving  
 Wheer, where  
 Whol, while  
 Wi', with  
 Wi'nod, will not  
 Wi' 't, with it  
 Wo, wall  
 Wod, (1) what, (2) would  
 Wodn'd, would not  
 Wooave, wove  
 Wo'st, worst  
 Wo'th, worth

Yar, our  
 Yed, head  
 Yer, Yore, your  
 Yo'n, you have





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